RMR

(30)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY D. Zachrek DATE 2/18/83

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒

RELEASE DENIED☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DECLASSIFIED

September 7, 1961

Dear Mr. McCormack:

I have received your letter of August 30, 1961 which requests us to advise you of any further information available as to the probable cause of the unfortunate accident suffered by the Boeing 707 aircraft operated by Sabena Belgian World Airlines at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

Our latest information indicates that the investigation of this accident by the Belgian authorities is still in progress and no official statement of cause has as yet been issued.

Further to my letter to you of April 29, 1961, representatives of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency in June, at the request of the Belgian authorities, reviewed the material which had been developed on the accident by the Belgian Investigation Commission. These United States agencies informally agreed to conduct tests on various parts of the aircraft's equipment. After receipt of these parts, which are presently being tested by the Belgian authorities, and further examination of these by the United States authorities, it may be necessary for the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency to conduct a series of flight tests in a Boeing 707 to duplicate conditions of the ill-fated flight based on eye witness accounts.

Investigations of such disasters usually require a considerable length of time before a probable cause of the accident can be determined. However, I shall furnish you with any pertinent information as to the probable cause of the accident at such time as it becomes available.

Sincerely yours,

Brooks Hays
Assistant Secretary

RM/R
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Rev
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The Honorable
John W. McCormack,
House of Representatives.

S/S-CR
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